Page 16, line 9, after the sequence ending "GTC", insert --(SEQ ID NO:  5)--.

Page 16, line 10, after the sequence ending "GAT", insert --(SEQ ID NO:  6)--.

Page 16, line 11, after the sequence ending "TTC", insert --(SEQ ID NO:  7)--.

Page 16, line 12, after the sequence ending "TTC", insert --(SEQ ID NO:  8)--.

Page 16, line 13, after the sequence ending "TCC", insert --(SEQ ID NO:  9)--.

Page 16, line 14, after the sequence ending "TCA", insert --(SEQ ID NO:  10)--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.  (Amended)        A polypeptide comprising

(i)       tetanus toxin fragment C or a fragment thereof of at least 6 amino
acids, fused to

(ii)      the pre-S1 region of hepatitis B virus (HBV) or a fragment thereof of
at least 6 amino acids, [and/or] the pre-S2 region of HBV or a fragment thereof of
at least 6 amino acids, or both the pre-S1 region of HBV or a fragment thereof of
at least 6 amino acids and the pre-S2 region of HBV or a fragment thereof of at
least 6 amino acids,

wherein the polypeptide induces antibody that recognizes the pre-S1,
[and/or] pre-S2, or both the pre-S1 and pre-S2 regions [region] of HBV.

4.  (Amended)        A polypeptide according to claim 1, 2 or 3 which
comprises a fragment of the pre-S1 region of at least 20 amino acids [and/or] a
fragment of the pre-S2 region of at least 20 amino acids, or both a fragment of the

pre-S1 region of at least 20 amino acids and a fragment of the pre-S2 region of at least 20 amino acids.

5. (Amended)    A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, 2 or 3.

8. (Amended)    A host cell comprising a vector according to claim 6 [or 7].

10. (Amended)    A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to [4, a polynucleotide according to claim 5 or a vector according to claim 6 or 7,] 3, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier [to] or diluent.

11. (Amended)    A method of treating [or preventing] HBV infection in [a human or] an animal which comprises administering to the [human or] animal an effective amount of a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 3, [4, a polynucleotide according to claim 5 or a vector according to claim 6 or 7].

12. (Amended)    A method for producing antibodies which recognize epitopes within the pre-S1, [and/or] pre-S2, or both the pre-S1 and pre-S2 regions of HBV which method comprises administering a polypeptide according to any one of [claim] claims 1 to 3 [4, a polynucleotide according to claim 5 or a vector according to claim 6 or 7] to a mammal.

14. (Amended) A method of treating HBV infection in [a human or] an animal, which comprises administering to the [human or] animal an effective amount of an antibody according to claim 13.

Please add the following new claims 15 to 34.

15. A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide according to claim 4.

16. A vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 15 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.

17. A host cell comprising a vector according to claim 16.

18. A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide according to claim 4, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

19. A vaccine composition comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 5, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

20. A vaccine composition comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 15, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

21. A vaccine composition comprising a vector according to claim 6, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

22.     A vaccine composition comprising a vector according to claim 16, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

23.     A method of preventing HBV infection in an animal which comprises administering to the animal an effective amount of a polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

24.     A method according to claim 23 wherein the animal is a human.

25.     A method according to claim 11 wherein the animal is a human.

26.     A method of treating HBV infection in an animal which comprises administering to the animal an effective amount of a polypeptide according to claim 4.

27.     A method according to claim 26 wherein the animal is a human.

28.     A method of preventing HBV infection in an animal which comprises administering to the animal an effective amount of a polypeptide according to claim 4.

29.     A method according to claim 28 wherein the animal is a human.

30.     A method of treating HBV infection in an animal which comprises administering an effective amount of a polynucleotide according to claim 5.